

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/607,228

Examiner

Srirama Channavajjala

Applicant(s)

DUMAIS ET AL.

Art Unit

2166

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/29/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,8-18,20-28,30-32,34 and 35 [re-numbered as: 1-26].
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>10/27/2006</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1,8-18,20-28,30-32,34-35 allowed.
2. Examiner acknowledges applicant's "terminal disclaimer" filed on 10/25/2006 is accepted on 10/27/2006..
3. Examiner acknowledges applicant's "Appeal Brief" filed on 8/28/2006.
4. Claims 1,28,35-36 have been amended [1/26/2006].
5. Claim 29 has been cancelled [1/26/2006].

Drawings

6. The Drawings filed on 6/26/2003 are acceptable for examination purpose.

Information Disclosure Statement

7. The information disclosure statement filed on 10/11/2005,12/05/2003 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97, and has been considered and a copy was mailed on 12/08/2005.

Interview:

8. Applicant's Attorney Marisa J. Zink Regd.No. 48,064 is thanked for the telephone interview on 27 October 2006. During that telephone interview Marisa J. Zink granted authorization to ***amend claims 1,9,20,28,35*** and ***cancel claims: 2-7,19,33,36-57.***

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

9. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicant's Attorney Marisa J. Zink Regd.No. 48,064, on 27 October 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims

1. ***(Currently Amended)*** A system that facilitates concurrent searching across a plurality of sources, comprising:

a usage analyzer that determines user accessed items and a content analyzer that stores subsets of data corresponding to the items and sparse representations of the subsets, at least two of the items being associated with disparate sources, respectively, the disparate sources comprise local or remote data locations including files, folders, applications, images, audio files, appointments, email, and web information; ~~and~~

an indexing component that indexes the data subsets and associates metadata with the accessed items, the metadata employed to retrieve the accessed items, and wherein the metadata includes at least one of a file path, a hyperlink, and a tag;

a filter that extracts portions of the accessed items and creates sparse representations of accessed data in a content index;

a search component that in response to a search query, initiates a search across the indexed data and outputs search results in the form of data, wherein the data includes documents, files, folders, applications, images, email, web information and links to locations of a subset and sparse representation of the subset;

an implicit query that is derived from the search query; and

a component to process implicit queries based upon potential interest to a user.

Claims 2-7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a gatherer component that specifies an interface to different content sources in their native format.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 ~~claim 4~~, the filter decodes individual file formats and emits a character stream for further processing.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, further comprising a tokenizer component that breaks the character stream into words and provides linguistic processing.

Art Unit: 2166

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, the linguistic processing includes at least one of date normalization and stemming.
12. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a retriever component supporting a query language for accessing stored information.
13. (Original) The system of claim 12, the retriever component provides Boolean functions and best match retrieval on full text and metadata properties that enable at least one of phrase, wildcard and proximity searches.
14. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a protocol handler to extract individual messages from exchange mail stores, local mail files, and public folders.
15. (Original) The system of claim 14, further comprising a component index attachments to email, which generalizes to other container objects.
16. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising an event component that monitors user and makes determinations with respect to user actions.
17. (Original) The system of claim 16, the event component includes to determine user actions or goals.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, the event component employs evidential patterns of user activity including at least one of: a Focus of attention, an Introspection, an Undesired piece of information, and a Domain-specific syntactic and semantic content.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 ~~19~~, the implicit queries automatically invoke related information actions directed to a user, the information actions associated with a query at hand or a current context.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, further comprising at least one of context-sensitive queries, application-context queries, and item-centric integrations.

22. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a component that enables users to share selected electronic files with other users.

23. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a component to remove accessed information items.

24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 ~~2~~, the search component employs effective time computations when presenting calendar items.

Art Unit: 2166

25. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a component to perform background storage operations to processes volatile data.

26. (Original) The system of claim 1, at least one of the usage analyzer and the indexer is executed on at least one of a client machine and a server machine, the client and server machines including at least one computer respectively.

27. (Original) A computer readable medium having computer readable instructions stored thereon for implementing at least one of the usage analyzer and the indexer of claim 1.

28. (Currently Amended) A method that facilitates concurrent searching across a plurality of sources, comprising:

automatically monitoring a user and automatically analyzing a data source to determine whether the user has contemplated the data source;

automatically determining whether the user has contemplated the data source selected from at least two disparate data sources;

automatically storing subsets of data corresponding to the data source and sparse representations of the subsets; and

automatically indexing the contemplated data source in a computerized index and associating metadata with the contemplated data source, the metadata employed

Art Unit: 2166

to retrieve the contemplated data sources, and wherein the metadata includes at least one of a file path, a hyperlink, and a tag;

automatically filtering the contemplated data source and creating sparse representations of the contemplated data source;

automatically initiating a search across the indexed data in response to a search query;

automatically outputting search results in the form of data, wherein the data includes documents, files, folders, applications, images, email, web information and links to locations of a subset and sparse representation of the subset;

automatically deriving an implicit query from the search query; and

automatically processing implicit queries based upon potential interest to a user.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Original) The method of claim 28, further comprising providing at least one of explicit query options and implicit query options to access the computerized index.

31. (Original) The method of claim 28, further comprising automatically updating a metadata file associated with the data source with at least one of explicit tag information and implicit tag information.

32. (Original) The method of claim 28, further comprising providing at least one of a file sharing option, a file scrubbing option, an effective time computation, and a background storage option.

33. **(Canceled)**

34. (Original) The method of claim 28, further comprising displaying at least one of a timeline visualization and a grid visualization to represent queries derived from the computerized index.

35. **(Currently Amended)** A system that facilitates ~~computerized searching,~~
concurrent searching across a plurality of sources comprising :

means for determining when a user has accessed an information item;

means for filtering the information item;

means for storing subsets of data corresponding to the information item and sparse representations of the subsets, at least two of the items being associated with disparate sources, such as local and remote data sources;

means for indexing the subsets of data and sparse representations of the subsets in a content index and associating metadata with the information item, the metadata employed to retrieve the information item, and wherein the metadata includes at least one of a file path, a hyperlink, and a tag; and

means for querying the content index;

means for initiating a search across the indexed data in response to the query;

means for outputting search results in the form of data, wherein the data includes documents, files, folders, applications, images, email, web information and links to locations of a subset and sparse representation of the subset;

means for deriving an implicit query from the search query; and

means for processing implicit queries based upon potential interest to a user.

Claims 36-57 (Canceled)

Pursuant to MPEP 606.01 the Title is changed to read

***--METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR USAGE ANALYZER THAT DETERMINES
USER ACCESSED SOURCES, INDEXES DATA SUBSETS, AND ASSOCIATED
METADATA, PROCESSING IMPLICIT QUERIES BASED ON POTENTIAL INTEREST
TO USERS—***

Reasons for allowance

Claims 1,8-18,20-28,30-32,34-35 are allowed

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art of record does not disclose, make obvious, or otherwise suggest the structure of the applicant's *"a filter that extracts portions of the accessed items and creates sparse representations of accessed data in a content index; an implicit query that is derived from the search query; and a component to process implicit queries based upon potential interest to a user"* in claims 1,28,35. These features, together with the other limitations of the independent claims are novel and non-obvious over the prior art of record. The dependent claims 8-18,20-27, 30-32,34 being definite, enabled by the specification, and further limiting to the independent claims are also allowable.

The newly cited reference Dorre,Jochen Dr. et al. EP 1677217 published on 05 July 2006 is directed to infrastructure for processing a text search query in a collection of documents, more specifically documents of collection are grouped in blocks of N documents, then, a block posting index is generated and stored , block posting index comprising a set of said index terms and posting list of each index term of said set, enumerating all blocks in which said index term occurs in at least one document of the block. The condition of a given query are processed by, first using said block posting index to obtain hit candidate blocks comprising documents being candidates for fulfilling said conditions [see Abstract, page 2, 0008].

Art Unit: 2166


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alam, Hosain, T, can be reached on (571) 272-3978. The fax phone numbers for the organization where the application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free)

sc

Patent Examiner.

October 27, 2006.


SRIRAMA CHANNAVAJALA
PRIMARY EXAMINER